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RECEIVED

January 7, 2008

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840

JAN 09 2008

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Re: Lost Horse Quarry

Dear Commissioners:

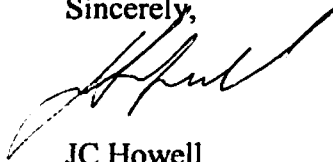
After attending the Commissioner's meeting on the morning of January 4, 2008, I can only conclude that the proposed mining operations at the quarry on Lost Horse Road are a waste of taxpayer funds. Mr. Onstead could only justify a use for 1,500 cubic yards of material, yet he proposes mining for 25,000 to 35,000 cubic yards. He stated that his staff, with many years of experience, assures him that there is a need for 2,500 cubic yards per year for ten years. There are no projects defined that would use any of this material, and in fact if there were such a demand, one would think that it would be easy to identify a need for at least 2,500 for this current year.

The scope of the project still has not been clearly defined. There is no time frame that would determine the termination of operations. There is no quantity of material that would determine the termination of operations. There are no explicit goals to achieve and there are no defined uses for the material. In other words, this is production for production's sake.

I will not reiterate all of the concerns that have been expressed about the proposed mining activity at the quarry. However, I do not agree that these concerns have been addressed in a manner to insure the safety of the users of Lost Horse Road and of Highway 93. I believe that there are still significant safety hazards associated with trucks loaded with tons of rock driving up and down the narrow, winding road.

Due to the undetermined need for the materials, the lack of planning on the part of the Road Department, and the unresolved safety issues, I believe that it would be a mistake to continue with this project and it would not properly serve the taxpayers of Ravalli County.

Sincerely,



JC Howell

cc: Ravalli Republic